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10/12/2013 Minutes

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of October 12, 2013
Approved November 20, 2013

Board members attending were Ron Sender, Jack Johnson, Doug Greenfield, Scott Smith, Stephan Miller, Christopher Tonkin and Phil Goff. Also present were Joey Glushko and David Fields.

Introductions were made all around.

*Approval of the minutes of the August meeting. The minutes of the August meeting were approved after amendments were made.

Reports on Activities.

Town Day. We discussed the comments made by people at this year's Town Day booth. The comments included questions about bicycle routes, bicycle parking and Hubway. There was an uptick in questions about rules of etiquette on the Bikeway. Scott then gave us a summary of the comments on the CLAMP project he heard at the TAC table. Comments were mostly favorable with questions about possible bike/auto conflicts. We briefly discussed the new striping on the repaved areas of Mass. Ave. We realize the design of the striping is a compromise because the bike lanes are discontinuous but decided that we will try this solution for now. Lastly, we decided that we need to pay more attention to the design of the Town Day booth to make it more visually inviting.

CLAMP. We discussed whether we, as a committee, should respond to the latest design for the Mass. Ave./Pleasant St. intersection. We decided that we will send a letter to the Town and MassDOT before the date of the next public hearing in early November. We basically like the plan but there are four issues we would like to comment on. 1) The automobile parking on Swan Pl.—There is too much potential for conflict between modes. 2) The bike lane to the right of the right turn lane at the intersection (westbound)—We would like to see the bike lane to the left of the right turn lane and have it widened to 6 ft. 3) Crossbikes where the bike lanes cross an intersection. 4) Larger ramps at the corners to accommodate the queueing of pedestrians and bicycles during the light cycle.

*Jack proposed a motion that we take a formal position supporting the current design with the modifications we discussed: west-bound 6-foot bike lane, bigger curb ramps, crossbikes in the intersections and fix head-in parking on Swan Pl. The vote in favor of sending the letter was unanimous. Phil will compose the letter.

Bikeway Usage Guidelines. Joey told us that the guidelines we proposed are being reviewed by the Town Manager's office.

Toole Design Bikeway Wayfinding Project. Joey reminded us that she needs our comments on the recommendations made by the consultants, Toole Design. Scott reviewed his comments having to do with signage and road crossings.

Striping the Bikeway/Repair of the Root Heaves. We decided that all of us need to go to the Town's website and request that the root heaves be repaired. Phil suggested that he could notify the EALS membership to make requests as well. Scott thought we should make sure that it is not on the DPW's autumn agenda before we start pestering them.

Autumn Bike Community Event with Medford Bicycle Committee. David from the Medford Bicycle Committee attended the meeting to ask our support for a Autumn bike tour next year. The ride would be through Medford, Arlington and Winchester. Christopher and Jack volunteered to help David plan this event.

Discuss Letter to Bedford Board of Selectmen. Bedford would like to install a cycle track connecting the end of the Minuteman Bikeway and the beginning of the Reformatory Branch Rail-Trail, so that they can avoid the problems Arlington has encountered with the gap in the Bikeway in Arlington Center. Jack suggested that the situation in Bedford is different from the one in Arlington Center because there is much less traffic in the area between the two paths in Bedford. Jack felt that emphasizing the problem of the path connection might jeopardize the completion of the path. We all felt that simple bike lanes would suffice to guide bike traffic from one path to the other. Jack will draft a letter summarizing our judgement on the matter.

*Christopher formulated a motion that Jack prepare a letter to the Bedford BOS that he will circulate via email for approval. The motion was unanimous.

Winter Social. Joey told us about the I Can Shine Bike Camp. This is a camp held during the spring school break with the purpose of teaching handicapped children to ride bicycles. The woman who runs the camp would like to attend the Social so that she can recruit people to help her with the camp. Another idea for the Social suggested by Scott would be to feature the topic of starting some form of bicycle training at the new Thompson School. Christopher suggested that we invite Nicole Friedman back for an update on bicycle accommodations in Boston. Stephen suggested that we invite someone from the human powered vehicle competition. We will try to decide on a speaker at the next ABAC meeting.

Other topics. Stephan asked that we set a date for the 2014 Bikeway Cleanup. We decided to do so at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 pm.

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.